



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter
ELW Setting 1

Prelude

God the Father, Be Our Stay

Paul Manz

Call and Response:

We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,
our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.

We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,
we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.

We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.

young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched, lift the new, new songs of faith.

Let us worship in faith,

Deepened by the Holy Spirit, we come to grow in faith!

Christ is Risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Entrance Hymn

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds ELW 367

Kyrie

p. 98

This is the Feast

(Congregation sings the refrain, Liturgist sings the verses)

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. *refrain*
2. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *refrain*
3. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. *refrain*

Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm: Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD| with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,**

and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation:

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Gospel: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Creed

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. *(Ephesians 1:13-14)*

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray especially for the Moravian Church, the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church, and the United Church of Christ, our ecumenical partners. Help us to uplift people of every faith, trusting that your Spirit of Love empowers us all through the means of grace by which we can most readily receive your callings. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Distribution of Communion

Prayer after Communion

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Closing Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This

ELW 666

POSTLUDE

Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him

Paul Manz

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Worship Leaders today:

Steve Gustafson Organist
Kirsten Bruce Liturgist
Sally Hefner Lector

Worship Leaders next week:

Steve Gustafson Organist
Kirsten Bruce Liturgist
Linda Lewis Lector

Messiah Lutheran Church

4/30/2021

	Actual 4/21	Actual 1/21-4/21	Budget 1/21-4/21
Revenue	12,166.68	62,802.74	48,386.64
Expenses	9,999.46	47,766.86	53,494.94
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>2,167.22</u>	<u>15,035.88</u>	<u>(5,108.30)</u>
Reserve Balance	<u>95,702.51</u>		

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, and Gloria and Gene Holdsworth

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
		Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's Daughter
Robert Ahlstedt	Earl Ahlstedt's brother	Matt Forrester	Pastor Amy's brother

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child		
Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife		

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Luke Hammontree Daniel's grandson

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Tom Toll	5/11	Merl Hilt	5/14
Anneliese Reinert	5/15		

Wider Church by Jeanne Ahlers

Presently the House of Representatives is considering *H.R. 40*, a bill concerned with the lasting impacts of slavery in the U.S. The *Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act* would establish a new commission to study the lasting impacts of slavery in this country and develop a set of recommendations for advancing reparations for affected people of African descent.

While slavery ended officially more than 150 years ago, its effects are still there. In 2019, the ELCA Church Council called for action to further "engage in anti-racism and racial justice

work, work toward economic justice -- including the study of reparations." The ELCA's *Declaration to People of African Descent* offered a public apology to African Americans, acknowledging the deeply-rooted racism and white supremacy in our history, including in the church. While nothing can undo what has happened in this regard, the apology includes working toward a deeper understanding of the legacy of institutional and structural racism, white privilege, and attitudes and foundations of white supremacy. A resolution during the 2019 Churchwide Assembly condemned white supremacy and called on ELCA congregations to engage in "communal study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God."

The perspective of faith leaders must be shown to lawmakers ahead of the vote on *H.R. 40*. It's important to let them know that racial equity is a critical matter of justice for our communities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Amy is having a surgery on May 18th. During this time President Ingrid Pohl, along with Pastors Chris Deines and Phil Hett will cover pastoral needs. Please call the office or Ingrid to share what is needed. Pastor Rachael Pryor will lead worship on May 23 and 30th. Please welcome her and come to hear the messages she shares!

We give thanks for the congregation's continued monetary support of **Messiah's ministries**. Your generosity continues to empower the use of our building by a variety of community groups and to pay for staffing and programming that supports all of our efforts. As we are seeking to replace several HVAC units these next few months, it would be appreciated if extra funding for those needs could be received. Each unit costs about \$5500. The iZone ionizer to assist the cleanliness of the air sent out cost about \$600 each. Your donations to this upkeep are welcome! Giving can be in physical donations through worship or in the office, on line through our website and facebook page, by mail, or through direct deposit (see Chris Reinert to set this up). Thank you for your abundant generosity!

Thank you to those of you who have contributed to the **LWR Personal Care Kits**, either monetarily or with Personal Care items. We will continue with collections through May. We will start collecting for School Kits in July. One of our members has already provided school bags for those kits.

Bethany and Messiah Lutheran Churches will be having a modified **VBS on June 1-3** ages 3 years to 6th grade from 9 am to 11 am at Swensson Park. We will keep group size between 12-15 kids, everyone will wear masks, and kids will be asked to bring their own water bottles. You can sign up online on Messiah's facebook page, just follow the link to the form or pick up a form in the office and return them by May 28th. If you have any questions please call Joyce Peterson at 785-227-2201 or Pari Ford at 785-227-7114.

The **Church Treasure Sale** will be held on Sat. June 26th from 7:30am-12:30pm. If you are interested in helping please contact Andrea Ring. Donations can be brought to the church between now and the sale during office hours. We will also have a drop off time on Friday, June 25th from 5-7pm. If you have large items to donate you are encouraged to bring them on this date. We can not accept donations of TVs, microwaves, mattresses, large appliances, cribs or infant seats.

Reconciling in Christ is the name for the ELCA's ministries around intentional inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in congregations. As Messiah begins to envision what is "next" for us in ministry, this might be a path we could converse about and seek to embrace. If you are interested in this conversation, please contact Pastor Amy. You can check out resources here: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/ric/>

KICK will be hosting a family series this summer. June 13th there will be a family tailgate from 5 to 7:30 pm at Swensson Park with Bible lessons and camp songs, hotdogs, burgers and more, and tailgate games. July 11th is pool night at Riverside Park from 5:30 to 9:30 pm with lessons and camp songs, Stuga subs and more. Private swim for the first 100. August 15th is a back to school bash with inflatables at Swensson Park from 5 to 7:30 pm. There will be Bible lessons, camp songs, pulled pork bbq and more. Tailgate games are needed, if you have a tailgate game we could borrow for the June 13th gathering please let Rachel Ann know (785) 212-0113.

MAY 9, 2021
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Love one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another
Monday	Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 John 5:1-6	Faith conquers the world
Wednesday	Romans 12:9-21	Love with sincerity
Thursday	Luke 24:44-53	Jesus ascends to heaven
Friday	Leviticus 19:17-18, 33-36	Ritual and moral holiness
Saturday	Psalm 98	Make a joyful noise
Sunday	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **John 15:12**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious and loving God, give us the faith and courage to love one another as you have loved us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you for this food; may it strengthen us to love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your love for God and one another give you joy that knows no end.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Oh, Sing to the Lord

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What makes it easy to love others? What makes it hard?
- How does Jesus' unconditional love show us the importance of loving others?
- How does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection show us what true love is all about?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 15:9-17.

This passage intimately connects a relationship of Jesus and “the Father” with Jesus’ own followers. The relationship is woven together through the language of commandments and love, and the two are brought together in verse 12: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” The Gospel of John does not have the “Great Commandment” dialog as in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. However, the theme here is the same: love God and love neighbor. The emphasis in John is that love is the way to have an enduring relationship with God and with brothers and sisters in the faith, those whom Jesus calls “friends.” The word for friends in Greek is “loved ones.” Love—not judgment and ridicule—is how Jesus relates to us. It is how we, as Jesus’ friends, are to approach the world so that our joy may be complete. How does love change our relationship with others? How does a commitment to love others change us?

Pray: **Loving God, we thank you for showing us the depth of your love for us through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

In the Bible, love is more than an emotion. Love is a commitment to care for others with our whole being. Conflict can get in the way of this love. Bringing God into our conflicted relationships can be a difference maker. This week think of those you have a conflict or tensions with, and pray to God for a clean and loving heart to reconcile your relationships.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The theme this week is “Love one another.” May 9 is observed as Mother’s Day in the United States. Reflect on the women in your life who have loved and cared for you. Think or talk about what you learned from them and how you show love to others. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for your love. Thank you for [name women who have cared for you]. Give us courage to love all people as you have loved us. Amen.**